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✓ Latest release

Labour Force, Australia

Headline estimates of employment, unemployment, underemployment, participation and hours worked from the monthly Labour Force Survey

Reference period April 2026

Released 21/05/2026

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Key statistics

In seasonally adjusted terms, in April 2026:

- employment decreased by 18,600 to 14,737,400 people.
- the unemployment rate increased by 0.2ppt to 4.5%.

In trend terms, in April 2026:

- employment increased by 22,100 to 14,753,800 people.
- the unemployment rate remained at 4.3%.

Main features

Modernising the Labour Force Survey

The ABS is improving how we collect the Labour Force Survey so we can continue producing high-quality labour force statistics, maintain strong response rates, provide a better experience for respondents, and run our business more efficiently.

For further details on these plans, see [Modernising the Labour Force Survey \(/about/key-priorities/data-acquisition-modernisation-program/modernising-labour-force-survey\)](#), [Upcoming changes to Labour Force Survey outputs \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/information-papers/upcoming-changes-labour-force-survey-outputs\)](#) and [How the ABS quality assures Labour Force data during times of change \(/articles/how-abs-quality-assures-labour-force-data-during-times-change\)](#).

Key statistics - Seasonally adjusted

	Mar-26	Apr-26	Monthly change	Monthly change (%)	Yearly change	Yearly change (%)
Employed people	14,756,000	14,737,400	-18,600	-0.1%	128,900	0.9%
Employment to population ratio	63.9%	63.7%	-0.2 pts	na	-0.7 pts	na
Unemployed people	659,500	692,500	33,000	5.0%	75,700	12.3%
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.5%	0.2 pts	na	0.4 pts	na
Underemployment rate	5.9%	5.8%	-0.1 pts	na	-0.2 pts	na
Participation rate	66.8%	66.7%	-0.1 pts	na	-0.4 pts	na
Monthly hours worked in all jobs	2,020 million	2,036 million	16 million	0.8%	70 million	3.5%

Key statistics - Trend

	Mar-26	Apr-26	Monthly change	Monthly change (%)	Yearly change	Yearly change (%)
Employed people	14,731,700	14,753,800	22,100	0.2%	187,200	1.3%
Employment to population ratio	63.8%	63.8%	0.0 pts	na	-0.4 pts	na
Unemployed people	665,000	669,500	4,500	0.7%	46,000	7.4%
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.3%	0.0 pts	na	0.2 pts	na
Underemployment rate	5.9%	5.9%	0.0 pts	na	0.0 pts	na
Participation rate	66.7%	66.7%	0.0 pts	na	-0.2 pts	na
Monthly hours worked in all jobs	2,022 million	2,028 million	7 million	0.3%	52 million	2.7%

Estimates of changes throughout this release are calculated using un-rounded level estimates and may be different from, but are more accurate than, movements obtained from the rounded level estimates.

For definitions of labour statistics used in this publication, please refer to [Glossary of Labour Force, Australia methodology \(/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/mar-2026#glossary\)](#).

Survey impacts and changes

Labour Force Modernisation



The ABS has started transitioning the Labour Force Survey to new modernised systems, with the April incoming rotation group being the first rotation group on the new platform and questionnaire. For further information on the Labour Force Modernisation program, see [Modernising the Labour Force Survey \(/about/key-priorities/data-acquisition-modernisation-program/modernising-labour-force-survey\)](#).

As outlined in [How the ABS quality assures Labour Force data during times of change \(/articles/how-abs-quality-assures-labour-force-data-during-times-change\)](#), the ABS has undertaken extensive analysis into the incoming rotation group to ensure the data is not impacted from these changes and is fit for purpose.

The ABS has determined that there are no notable impacts from the Labour Force Modernisation transition in the April data.

The ABS will continue to undertake extensive monitoring and analysis of incoming rotation groups to ensure the

Labour Force data continues to maintain its high quality.

The May 2026 collection of Labour Force will have two incoming rotation groups. All references to the outgoing rotation group in the April 2026 publication represent these two outgoing rotation groups combined.

Rotation group analysis

The Labour Force Survey is subject to sample variability on a month-to-month basis. The ABS will highlight where there is a notable change in the responding sample for users to be aware of. In April 2026, the incoming rotation group for WA had a higher unemployment rate than other rotation groups.

Incoming and outgoing rotation groups

	March outgoing rotation group	April incoming rotation group	April outgoing rotation groups*	April estimate (Original)
Employment to population ratio	65.6%	64.8%	63.2%	64.5%
Full-time employment to population ratio	44.5%	44.0%	43.7%	44.3%
Unemployment rate	4.6%	4.6%	4.7%	4.5%
Participation rate	68.7%	67.9%	66.3%	67.6%

*Data has been combined for the two April outgoing rotation groups.

State and territory estimates can be subjected to notable month-to-month movements. The ABS recommends exercising a degree of caution in interpreting short-term changes. The trend data provides the best measure of the underlying behaviour of the labour market, as it removes notable month-to-month variability.

Survey dates

The April 2026 Labour Force Survey was run in respect of the two weeks from Sunday 29 March to Saturday 11 April, and collected over the period from Sunday 5 April to Saturday 25 April.

The ABS would like to thank Australians for their continued support in responding to our surveys, given how critically important this information is.

Reference and Enumeration Dates

Publication	Start of Reference Week	End of Reference Week	Start of Enumeration	End of Enumeration
Mar-26	1st March 2026	14th March 2026	8th March 2026	28th March 2026
Apr-26	29th March 2026	11th April 2026	5th April 2026	25th April 2026
May-26	3rd May 2026	16th May 2026	10th May 2026	30th May 2026
Jun-26	31st May 2026	13th June 2026	7th June 2026	27th June 2026
Jul-26	28th June 2026	11th July 2026	5th July 2026	25th July 2026
Aug-26	2nd August 2026	15th August 2026	9th August 2026	29th August 2026

Annual Series Review

The Annual Series Review (ASR) of the Labour Force series was conducted on estimates up to February 2026.

While seasonal factors for the complete time series are re-estimated each month as part of concurrent seasonal adjustment, they are reviewed annually at a more detailed level. The ASR utilises the context gained from an additional year of original data to assess the appropriateness of seasonal adjustment parameters and prior corrections.

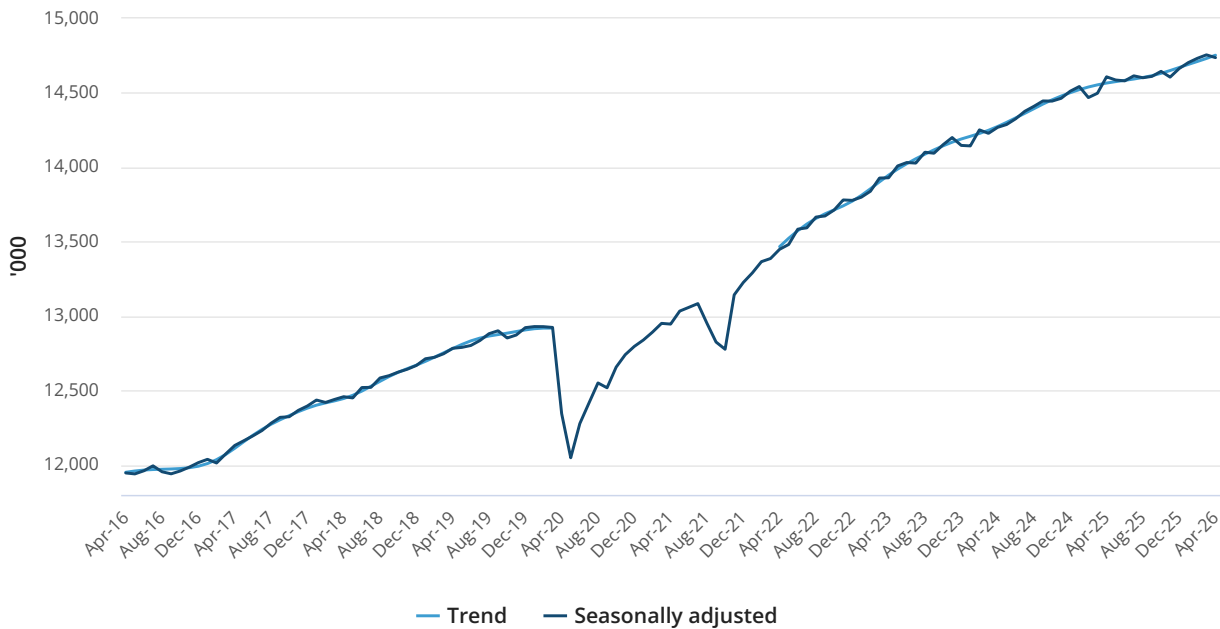
This year's ASR included small enhancements to the underemployment and hours worked seasonal adjustment settings. As a result, these series will have larger revisions than typically seen each month as part of the monthly concurrent seasonal adjustment process.

For further information on the seasonal adjustment and trend estimations used in the Labour Force Survey please refer to [Labour Force, Australia methodology \(/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/apr-2026#seasonal-adjustment-and-trend-estimation\)](#).

Employment

In April 2026, employment decreased by 18,600 people (0.1%) to 14,737,400 people in seasonally adjusted terms. Full-time employment decreased by 10,700 to 10,160,900 people, and part-time employment decreased by 7,900 to 4,576,500 people.

Employed people

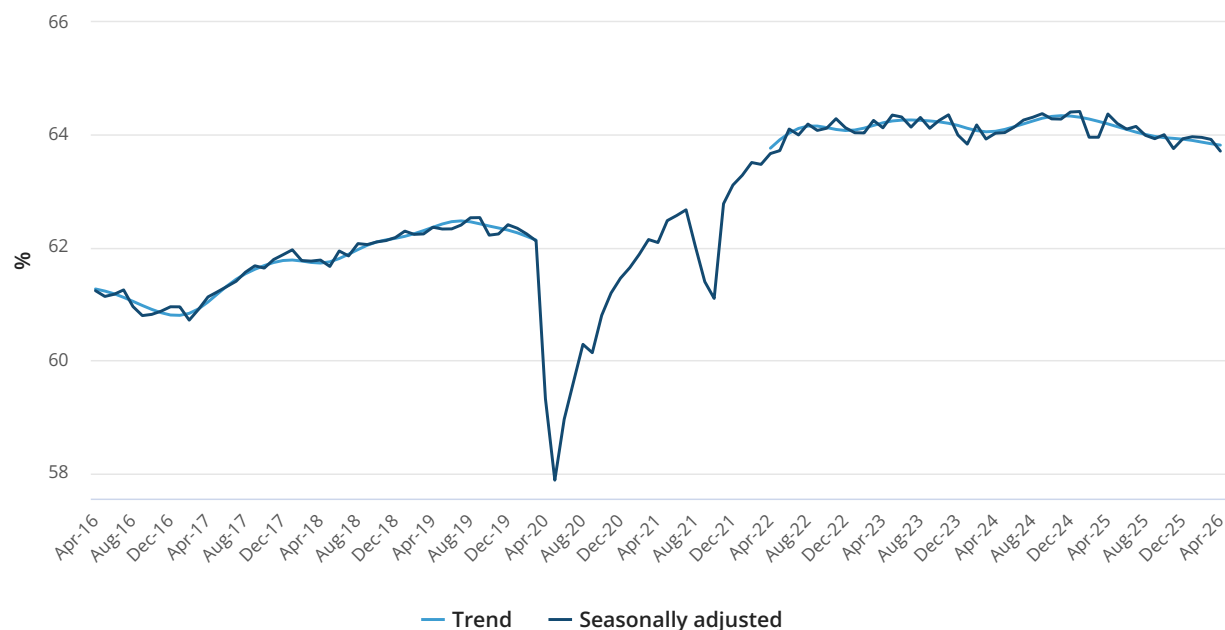


Large month-to-month changes occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in multiple trend breaks. The ABS recommends caution when using trend estimates published in spreadsheets in this release for this period. Information on trend breaks can be found in [Labour Force, Australia methodology, April 2026 \(/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/apr-2026\)](#).

Employment-to-population ratio

In April 2026, the employment-to-population ratio fell by 0.2ppt to 63.7% in seasonally adjusted terms. The employment-to-population ratio remained at 67.5% for males, and decreased by 0.4ppt to 60.0% for females.

Employment-to-population ratio

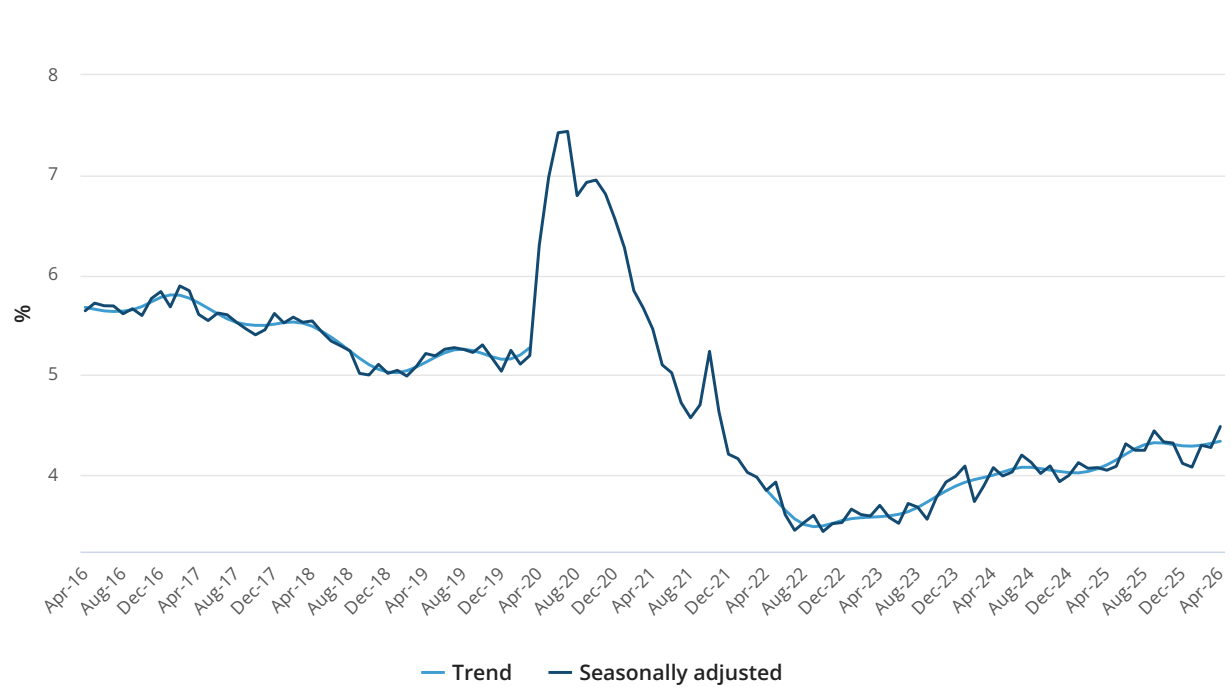


Large month-to-month changes occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in multiple trend breaks. The ABS recommends caution when using trend estimates published in spreadsheets in this release for this period. Information on trend breaks can be found in [Labour Force, Australia methodology, April 2026 \(/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/apr-2026\)](#).

Unemployment

In April 2026, the unemployment rate rose to 4.5% in seasonally adjusted terms, with the number of unemployed people increasing by 33,000 to 692,500 people. The unemployment rate remained at 4.6% for males and increased by 0.4ppt to 4.4% for females. The youth unemployment rate increased by 0.9ppt to 11.1%.

Unemployment rate

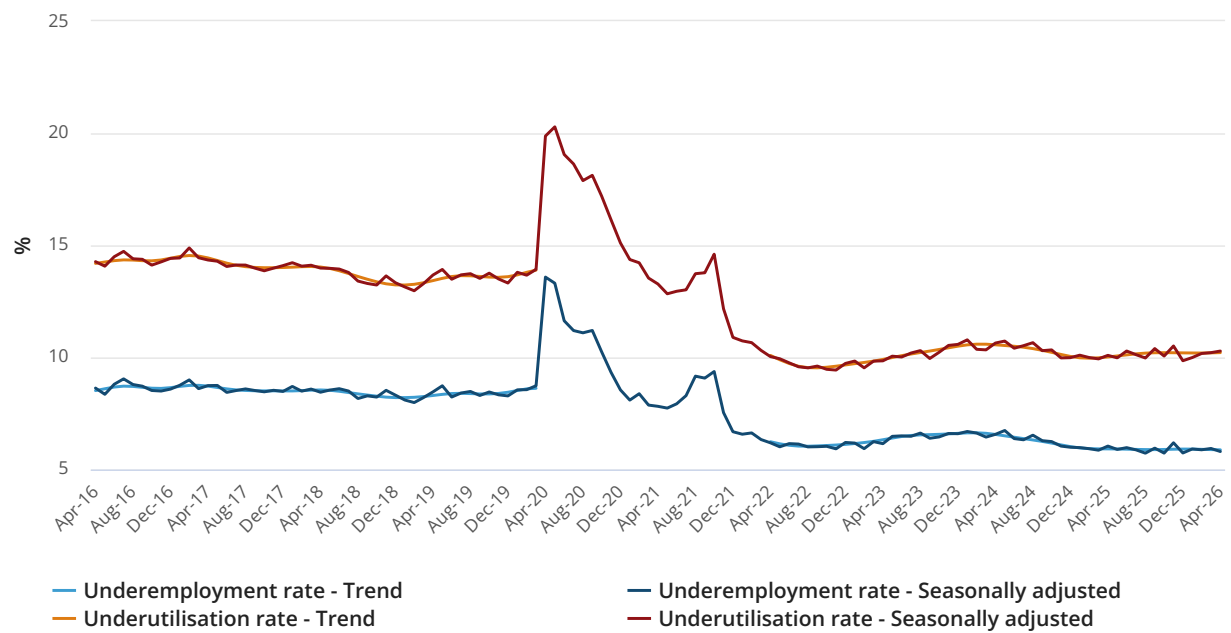


Large month-to-month changes occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in multiple trend breaks. The ABS recommends caution when using trend estimates published in spreadsheets in this release for this period. Information on trend breaks can be found in [Labour Force, Australia methodology, April 2026 \(/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/apr-2026\)](#).

Underemployment

In April 2026, the underemployment rate fell by 0.1ppt to 5.8% and the underutilisation rate rose by 0.1ppt to 10.3% in seasonally adjusted terms.

Underemployment rate and underutilisation rate

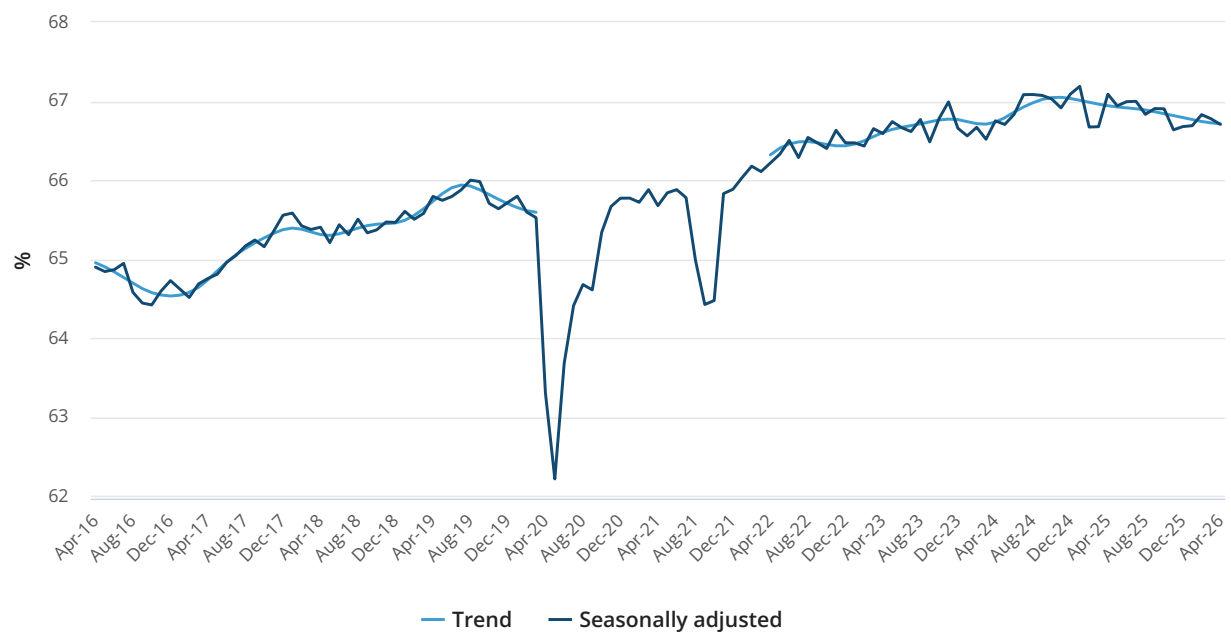


Large month-to-month changes occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in multiple trend breaks. The ABS recommends caution when using trend estimates published in spreadsheets in this release for this period. Information on trend breaks can be found in [Labour Force, Australia methodology, April 2026 \(/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/apr-2026\)](#).

Participation

In April 2026, the participation rate fell by 0.1ppt to 66.7% in seasonally adjusted terms. The participation rate remained at 70.8% for males and fell by 0.1ppt to 62.8% for females.

Participation rate

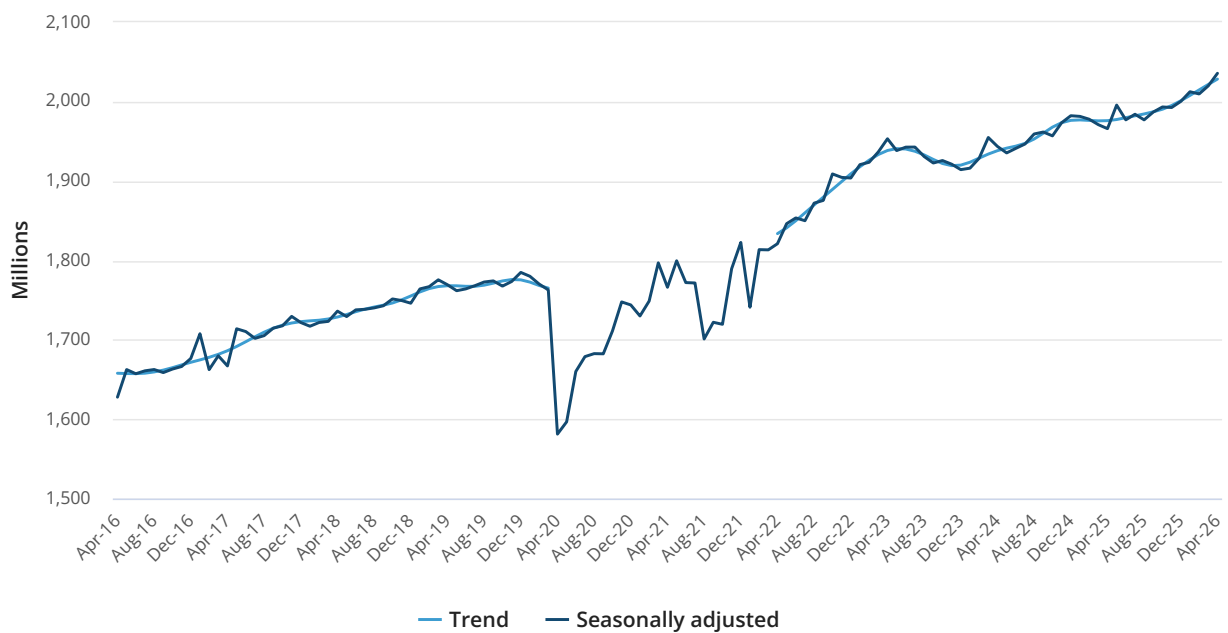


Large month-to-month changes occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in multiple trend breaks. The ABS recommends caution when using trend estimates published in spreadsheets in this release for this period. Information on trend breaks can be found in [Labour Force, Australia methodology, April 2026 \(/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/apr-2026\)](#).

Hours worked

In April 2026, monthly hours worked in all jobs increased by 15.8 million hours to 2,036 million hours in seasonally adjusted terms.

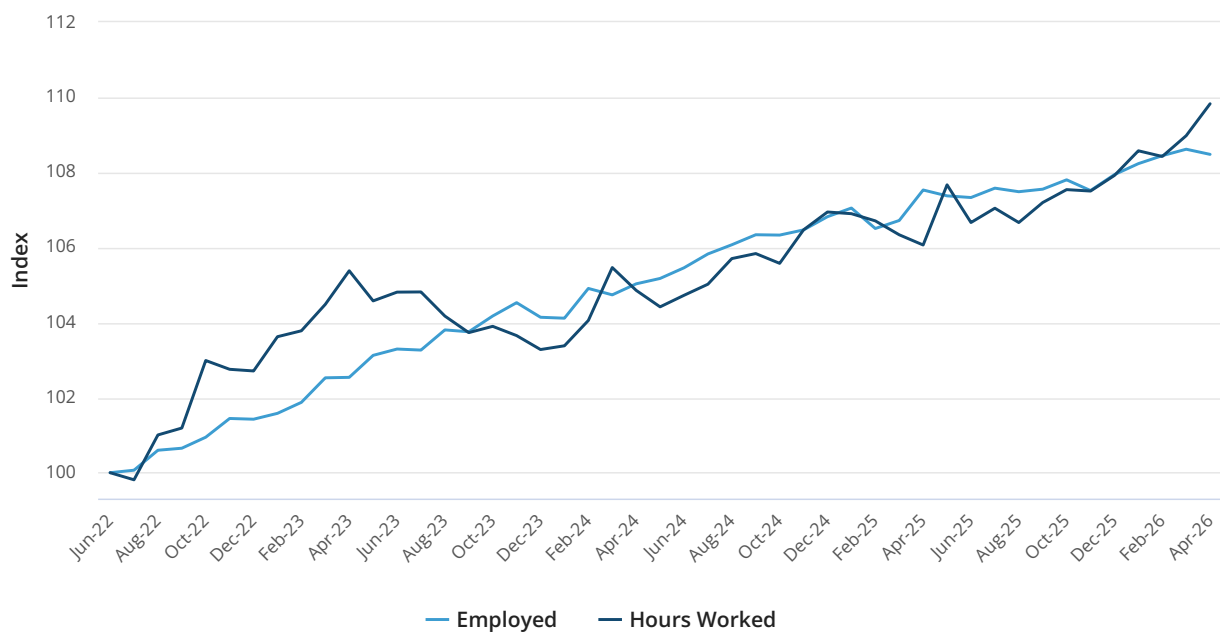
Monthly hours worked in all jobs



Large month-to-month changes occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in multiple trend breaks. The ABS recommends caution when using trend estimates published in spreadsheets in this release for this period. Information on trend breaks can be found in [Labour Force, Australia methodology, April 2026 \(/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/apr-2026\)](#).

In seasonally adjusted terms, monthly hours worked in all jobs grew by 0.8%, which was stronger than the 0.1% fall in employment.

Employment and hours worked index (June 2022 = 100), Seasonally adjusted



States and Territories

April 2026 - Seasonally adjusted

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Australia
Employed people	4,535,200	3,787,800	3,028,800	987,600	1,693,500	277,200	14,737,400
Employed people - monthly change	-1.0%	0.1%	-0.2%	-0.6%	0.8%	-0.9%	-0.1%
Employment to population ratio	63.1%	63.7%	64.0%	61.4%	66.3%	56.9%	63.7%
Employment to population ratio - monthly change	-0.7 pts	-0.1 pts	-0.3 pts	-0.5 pts	0.3 pts	-0.6 pts	-0.2 pts
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.8%	4.2%	4.2%	4.1%	5.0%	4.5%
Unemployment rate - monthly change	0.2 pts	0.0 pts	0.5 pts	0.2 pts	-0.1 pts	0.3 pts	0.2 pts
Underemployment rate	5.5%	6.4%	5.7%	6.1%	5.4%	6.7%	5.8%
Underemployment rate - monthly change	-0.4 pts	0.2 pts	-0.2 pts	-0.8 pts	-0.1 pts	-0.8 pts	-0.1 pts
Participation rate	66.1%	66.9%	66.8%	64.0%	69.2%	59.9%	66.7%
Participation rate - monthly change	-0.6 pts	-0.1 pts	0.1 pts	-0.3 pts	0.3 pts	-0.4 pts	-0.1 pts

Seasonally adjusted estimates for NT and ACT are not available due to having no seasonality. The ABS recommends using trend data.

April 2026 - Trend

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Employed people	4,537,200	3,799,200	3,031,700	990,900	1,689,700	278,900	147,200	278,100	14,753,800

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Employed people - monthly change	0.2%	-0.1%	0.2%	-0.1%	0.4%	-0.2%	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%
Employment to population ratio	63.2%	63.9%	64.1%	61.6%	66.2%	57.3%	70.1%	69.3%	63.8%
Employment to population ratio - monthly change	0.0 pts	-0.2 pts	0.0 pts	-0.2 pts	0.1 pts	-0.1 pts	0.2 pts	0.1 pts	0.0 pts
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.8%	4.2%	4.1%	4.2%	4.8%	4.8%	4.2%	4.3%
Unemployment rate - monthly change	0.1 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	0.1 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts
Underemployment rate	5.6%	6.4%	5.8%	6.2%	5.4%	7.0%	3.8%	4.6%	5.9%
Underemployment rate - monthly change	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	-0.1 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts	0.0 pts
Participation rate	66.0%	67.1%	66.8%	64.2%	69.1%	60.1%	73.6%	72.3%	66.7%
Participation rate - monthly change	0.1 pts	-0.1 pts	0.0 pts	-0.1 pts	0.1 pts	-0.1 pts	0.2 pts	0.1 pts	0.0 pts

Data downloads

Labour Force status

Table 001. Labour force status by Sex, Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

[Download XLSX](#)

[750.18 KB]

(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/apr-2026/62020001.xlsx)

Table 002. Labour force status by Sex, New South Wales - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

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Table 003. Labour force status by Sex, Victoria - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

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Table 004. Labour force status by Sex, Queensland - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

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Table 005. Labour force status by Sex, South Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

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[549.99 KB]

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Table 006. Labour force status by Sex, Western Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

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[553.25 KB]

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Table 007. Labour force status by Sex, Tasmania - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

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Table 008. Labour force status by Sex, Northern Territory - Trend and Original

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Table 009. Labour force status by Sex, Australian Capital Territory - Trend and Original

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Table 010. Labour force status by Sex, State and Territory - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

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[4.59 MB]

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Table 011. Labour force status by Age and Sex - Original

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Table 012. Labour force status for 15-19 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

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[\(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/apr-2026/62020012.xlsx\)](/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/apr-2026/62020012.xlsx)

Table 013. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

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[734.24 KB]

[\(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/apr-2026/62020013.xlsx\)](/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/apr-2026/62020013.xlsx)

Table 014. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by State, Territory and Educational attendance (full-time)

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Table 015. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by Educational attendance (full-time) and Sex

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[837.42 KB]

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Table 016. Labour force status for 15-64 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

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[745.67 KB]

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LMS1. Labour force status and Gross changes (flows) by Age, Sex, State and Territory (pivot table)

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[94.53 MB]

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LMS1. Labour force status and Gross changes (flows) by Age, Sex, State and Territory, Historical (pivot table)

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[97.36 MB]

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LMS2. Labour force status by Age, Greater capital city and rest of state (ASGS) and Sex (pivot table)

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LMS3. Labour force status by Age (detailed), Greater capital city and rest of state (ASGS) and Sex (pivot table)

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[19.86 MB]

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LMS4. Labour force status by Age, Major country group (subcontinent) of birth (SACC), and Sex (pivot table)

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LMS5. Labour force status by Elapsed years since arrival, Major country group (subcontinent) of birth (SACC), Sex, State and Territory (pivot table)

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Modelled labour market regions (SA4)

MLF1. Modelled estimates of labour force status, by SA4 (ASGS), Age and Sex (Pivot Table)

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[20.07 MB]

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Hours worked

Table 017. Hours worked in all jobs by Employed full-time, part-time and Sex and by State and Territory - Trend and Seasonally adjusted

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[270.69 KB]

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Table 018. Employed persons by Hours worked in all jobs and Sex

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[646.27 KB]

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HRS1. Employed persons by Hours worked in all jobs, State and Territory (pivot table)

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[3.65 MB]

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HRS2. Employed persons by Hours worked in all jobs, Age and Sex (pivot table)

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[9.71 MB]

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Status in employment

Table 019. Status in employment of main job and Sex

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[356.38 KB]

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SEM1. Status in employment of main job by hours worked in all jobs, sex, and state (pivot table)

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[35.42 MB]

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Underemployment and underutilisation

Table X28. Underutilised persons by State and Territory and Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

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Table X29. Underutilised persons by Age and Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

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All spreadsheets

All spreadsheets

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Data Explorer datasets

Data in the Data Explorer is currently released after the 11:30am release on the ABS website. Please check the time period when using Data Explorer.

[Labour Force status by Sex, State and Territory \(https://explore.data.abs.gov.au/vis?tm=labour%20force&pg=0&df\[ds\]=ABS_ABS_TOPICS&df\[id\]=LF&df\[ag\]=ABS&df\[vs\]=1.0.0&hc\[Measure\]=Labour%20Force&hc\[ABS%20Topics\]=LABOUR&pd=2021-01%2C&dq=M9.3.1599.30%2B10%2B20.AUS.M&ly\[cl\]=TIME_PERIOD&ly\[rw\]=TSEST\)](https://explore.data.abs.gov.au/vis?tm=labour%20force&pg=0&df[ds]=ABS_ABS_TOPICS&df[id]=LF&df[ag]=ABS&df[vs]=1.0.0&hc[Measure]=Labour%20Force&hc[ABS%20Topics]=LABOUR&pd=2021-01%2C&dq=M9.3.1599.30%2B10%2B20.AUS.M&ly[cl]=TIME_PERIOD&ly[rw]=TSEST) - Number of people employed, unemployed and not in the labour force, monthly, February 1978 onwards.

[Labour Force monthly hours worked by Sex, State and Territory \(https://explore.data.abs.gov.au/vis?fs\[0\]=Labour%2C0%7CEmployment%20and%20unemployment%23EMPLOYMENT_UNEMPLOYMENT%23&pg=0&fc=Labour&df\[ds\]=LABOUR_TOPICS&df\[id\]=LF_HOURS&df\[ag\]=ABS&df\[vs\]=1.0.0&pd=1978-07%2C&dq=.3.1599...1%2B2%2B3%2B4%2B5%2B6%2B7%2B8%2BAUS.M&ly\[cl\]=TIME_PERIOD&ly\[rw\]=MEASURE\)](https://explore.data.abs.gov.au/vis?fs[0]=Labour%2C0%7CEmployment%20and%20unemployment%23EMPLOYMENT_UNEMPLOYMENT%23&pg=0&fc=Labour&df[ds]=LABOUR_TOPICS&df[id]=LF_HOURS&df[ag]=ABS&df[vs]=1.0.0&pd=1978-07%2C&dq=.3.1599...1%2B2%2B3%2B4%2B5%2B6%2B7%2B8%2BAUS.M&ly[cl]=TIME_PERIOD&ly[rw]=MEASURE) - Monthly hours worked by employed people, monthly, July 1978 onwards.

[Labour Force status by Age Groups \(https://explore.data.abs.gov.au/vis?tm=LF_AGES&pg=0&df\[ds\]=LABOUR_TOPICS&df\[id\]=LF_AGES&df\[ag\]=ABS&df\[vs\]=\)](https://explore.data.abs.gov.au/vis?tm=LF_AGES&pg=0&df[ds]=LABOUR_TOPICS&df[id]=LF_AGES&df[ag]=ABS&df[vs]=) - Number of people employed, unemployed and not in the labour force, monthly, February 1978 onwards.

[Labour Force Educational Attendance \(https://explore.data.abs.gov.au/vis?lc=en&tm=LF_EDU&pg=0&hc\[dataflowId\]=LF_EDU&df\[ds\]=LABOUR_TOPICS&df\[id\]=LF_EDU&df\[ag\]=ABS&df\[vs\]=&pd=2023-01%2C&dq=.3...AUS.M&ly\[cl\]=TIME_PERIOD&ly\[rw\]=MEASURE&ly\[rs\]=EDU_AT\)](https://explore.data.abs.gov.au/vis?lc=en&tm=LF_EDU&pg=0&hc[dataflowId]=LF_EDU&df[ds]=LABOUR_TOPICS&df[id]=LF_EDU&df[ag]=ABS&df[vs]=&pd=2023-01%2C&dq=.3...AUS.M&ly[cl]=TIME_PERIOD&ly[rw]=MEASURE&ly[rs]=EDU_AT) - Educational attendance (Full Time) for 15-24 year olds by State, Territory and Sex, monthly, April 1986 onwards.

For information on Data Explorer and how it works, see the [Data Explorer user guide \(/about/data-services/data-explorer/data-explorer-user-guide\)](/about/data-services/data-explorer/data-explorer-user-guide).

Article archive

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